

THE NEW YORK TIMES

23 November 1953

## ATOM DEFENSE DATA TO BE EXCHANGED

U. S., Britain, Canada to Share  
Information Soon on Bomb  
Effects on Troops, Civilians

By W. H. LAWRENCE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—The United States, Britain and Canada will begin soon an exchange of information on the effects of atomic and hydrogen weapons "on human beings and their environment." The purpose is to aid in defensive measures for troops and for the civilian population.

Plans for the program were confirmed today by the Atomic Energy Commission, which said it had been approved by President Eisenhower and by Republican and Democratic members of the Joint Congressional committee on Atomic Energy.

The commission emphasized that the contemplated exchange of information would not extend to "weapons design and development." Such exchange is forbidden by law.

So far as is known, the United States is the only Western power that has tested a hydrogen bomb device and measured its effects upon animals and structures. This country also has tested atomic bombs and tactical atomic weapons, such as artillery shells with troops in trenches nearby.

The information gained by such tests, and by other experiments undertaken by the British and Canadians, will, it is felt, help greatly in preparing for surprise enemy attack by nuclear weapons.

### Strauss Speech Recalled

Plans for the new international exchange of information first were announced by Rear Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, commission chairman, in a speech at Columbus, Ohio, on Nov. 11, at the annual meeting of the American Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities. At that time, he said:

"Since 1948 we have had a program of technical cooperation in certain atomic energy matters with the United Kingdom and Canada. Only recently has it been found possible, within existing authority, to extend the area of cooperation under this program in certain respects and to our mutual advantage. The additional exchange, which does not involve weapons information, will be carried out by direction of President Eisenhower and with the consent of the Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy."

Last night, in an informal speech at Richmond, Va., Admiral Strauss said the exchange of information would deal "with effects of atomic weapons on human beings and their environment."

Congressional sources said members of the Congressional committee were polled by mail during the recess of Congress and gave their approval in writing.

Capitol Hill sources said the move received speedy approval because it was regarded as an impor-

Continued on Page 4, Column 2